

Barbara Halsey, Executive Director California Workforce Investment Board

Barbara Halsey was appointed Executive Director for the California Workforce Investment Board (State Board) May 2007. She is a graduate of Orange City, Iowa's, Northwestern College, where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work.

As the Executive Director, Ms. Halsey is responsible for overseeing the development of a collaborative process that will design and implement a workforce investment system including all partners, both State and local. Her role also consults and advises the State Board, in its deliberative role, in making recommendations to the Governor on the development of California's five-year Workforce Development Strategy and the initiatives embedded in that strategy.

The mission of the State Board is to foster partnerships between business, government, education and economic development to meet the workforce needs of local businesses. Ms. Halsey has committed to operating a demand driven service delivery system and feels this is a challenging and exciting opportunity to help develop tools today that will drive tomorrow's workforce, which is essential to California's continued economic growth. Under Ms. Halsey's leadership, the State Board has adopted sector strategies as the framework for Workforce Development.

With the passage of the Green Collar Jobs Act in 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger, placed the California Workforce Investment Board in charge of developing a comprehensive strategy to prepare California's workforce to meet the needs of businesses supporting the economy and ensure that efforts aimed at improving worker's skills are coordinated and effective. To achieve this goal, the Green Collar Jobs Council was created, under the purview of the State Board, to better understand the current and future workforce needs of the Green/Clean economy.

Prior to her State Board appointment, Barbara was the Director of San Bernardino County Department of Workforce Development for over 3 years and has nearly 27 years of experience in the workforce training field.